

## **Why won't the levy have to be increased?**

Due to the structuring of the bond payments and other reasons listed below the levy rate will not increase. If the 9.9 million bond is approved the levy rate will remain the same.

In 2019 the levy total will be \$387 per \$100,000 value for a homeowner (\$297 existing bond, and \$90 supplemental levy)

In 2020, if the bond for 9.9 million passes, the levy total will still be \$387 per \$100,000 value (\$197 existing bond, \$88 supplemental, and \$102 proposed bond)

You can see these totals represented on the bar graph found in the brochure.

The key reason the tax levy rate will not be increased is the flexibility to adjust our current bond. Other factors (listed below) contributed to our ability to maintain the current tax levy rate.

- ► The District refinanced its 2008 Bonds in 2017, providing savings of over \$1,035,000.
- ► The District paid down a portion of its 2017 Bonds in 2018 creating additional savings of \$846,000.
- ► The District will receive an annual subsidy payment from the State, of 18% of the principal and interest to repay the proposed 2019 bonds.
- ► Future tax rates assume modest market value growth of 2.5%, 2019-2024; 1.5%, 2025-: 1.0%, 2030 2031 & after.

## **Why doesn't the plan include a new building?**

The committee looked at several building options and although building a new middle school seemed to have the most support, there was no complete consensus on the project. There was concern about the current district land in relation to building a middle school, so the decision was made to look for new land and address immediate classroom space needs. The bonding capacity for the future was also a concern.

Although growth is projected, the current growth does not appear to dictate an immediate need for a building project. The proposed bond will address immediate classroom needs such as space at Filer Intermediate School which has no available classrooms, and at the high school which does not have a classroom for the new ag/science teacher. If needed, the increased classrooms at Filer Intermediate will provide the ability to temporarily adjust classes at the elementary or middle school. The proposed bond also address classroom lab space at the high school.

By waiting 3-5 years for the next building project the result will be increased bonding capacity, The district is able to use approximately \$250,000 in maintenance funding, which is required by the state, to address immediate needs at Filer Elementary, Filer Middle school, and Hollister. If future growth does not dictate the need for a building for another 6-8 years then the school district may be able to handle the building project without having to increase the levy rate.

## **Why include improvements at the elementary (parking) and middle school (auditorium)?**

Included in the bond is funding to improve the congestion, primarily after school, at the elementary/intermediate. Parking and traffic flow has been an issue for many years. This plan will involve both adding parking space and making changes to provide a better flow for drop off and pick up of students. It will also assure ADA access.

At the middle school the auditorium seating diminishes each year as a certain number of seats are removed to be used as parts to repair broken seats. The seats themselves need to be replaced as they are outdated. Lighting, acoustics, and other aspects such as flooring, painting, etc. will also be addressed. The end result will be the opportunity to provide quality performances experiences.

## **Why expand the career technical building?**

The various programs in our career technical building have to share space, limiting the classes they can offer and the number of students in the class. When we hired a second Ag/Science teacher we were not able to provide a classroom for the teacher. Currently the lack of storage limits space for additional equipment and the ability to reach equipment in storage during class.

The expansion will double the size of the building including an additional classroom and restrooms. The additional space will allow new programs to be offered in the future which is not currently possible. A grant was acquired for a Floral Program, however there is lack of space for that program so its implementation was limited.

The expansion will also renovate the existing space so that classes have larger labs to accommodate more students. The current labs are not able to accommodate both the current and new curriculum. Lockers will allow students to store their tools etc.

This expansion will increase STEM learning. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Expansion will provide increased hands on opportunities for students to apply their math and science learning in a project based learning environment.

The expansion of this building will increase the opportunity for students to enter a career or career pathway to develop the skills necessary to enter the work force or postsecondary education after graduation from Filer High School

The bottom line is that this expansion will provide flexibility allowing teachers to add classes and make changes to existing classes to meet both the current and future needs of their students.

## **Why add rooms to the existing intermediate school?**

When the school was built there were empty classrooms, currently there are no available rooms if an additional class were needed. The intermediate is the newest building in the district and will most likely be utilized longer than any of the existing buildings. By adding more than four rooms at this time the building could accommodate another grade level if that is needed in the future as the district expands.

## **Why purchase land?**

The long range facility plan over the next twenty years includes building a new middle school, which was the consensus of the Steering Committee. Depending on growth, that plan may be as soon as in the next 3-5 years, although it could be longer. The current land owned by the district is on the south side of Highway 30 and traffic would create various challenges until a traffic light is constructed at 2300 E. (Wildcat Way). In addition, the current land is not large enough to adequately serve a middle school so the district is looking for land that could meet various potential needs. The current land could be used for another building down the road as part of the twenty year plan or could be sold depending on the needs of the district.

## **Why doesn't the district remove out of district students?**

The district works hard to maintain small class sizes. Our out of district numbers decreased by about 20% over the past two years. About 1/5 of the current out of district students are students whose parents are Filer staff members.

We currently have a lower student-teacher ratio than all similar sized districts in our area and significantly lower than Twin Falls. Our school board policy limits class size to 22 at Filer Elementary and 26 at Filer Intermediate. We have similar restrictions at the secondary level. Currently most of the grades at Filer Elementary and Filer Intermediate are not accepting any out of district students due to school board policy.

We receive funding from the state for each out of district student. If all the out of district students were removed, class sizes in the district would reduce by about one student in each classroom in the elementary school and overall about two per class in the district. At the same time funding would be reduced by about \$900,000 which is approximately the cost of 18 teachers.